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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Specialist Gale Kurk Vogler was born in East Moline to Jess and Margorie Vogler on February 22, 1947; he attended United Township High School in East Moline, where he excelled in baseball and football; and

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WHEREAS, Specialist Vogler graduated from high school in June of 1964; after graduating, he went to work at John Deere until he enlisted in the United States Army in May of 1966; and

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WHEREAS, Specialist Vogler completed basic combat training at Fort Riley, Kansas and was sent to advance infantry training; after graduation from infantry training, he was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam, commencing his tour of duty in South Vietnam on December 1, 1966; while in South Vietnam, he was promoted to Specialist 4, and assigned to Company A, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, nicknamed "The Old Reliables", headquartered in the Mekong Delta; and

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WHEREAS, On March 11, 1967, Specialist Vogler's unit was participating in a search and destroy operation against a heavily-armed, large body of Communist Viet Cong guerrillas, which had been terrorizing the local population and assassinating political figures loyal to the Government of the

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1 Republic of Vietnam, around My Tho and other areas in Dinh  
2 Tuong Province; and

3 WHEREAS, Specialist Vogler's platoon was divided into 2  
4 squads and ordered to sweep an area surrounded by heavy, thick  
5 jungle on the outskirts of several hamlets; as his squad  
6 prepared to move out, in keeping with his selfless nature, he  
7 volunteered to walk point, one of the most hazardous jobs for  
8 an infantryman to undertake, let alone volunteer for during the  
9 Vietnam War; and

10 WHEREAS, As Specialist Vogler made his way down the trail,  
11 which was shrouded in shadows due to the thick jungle canopy,  
12 he activated a tripwire, which detonated a Viet Cong  
13 anti-personnel mine; severally wounded, he was medevaced to the  
14 93rd Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh, 25 miles North of  
15 Saigon, where he succumbed to his injuries; he died on March  
16 11, 1967 in Vietnam as the result of wounds received when he  
17 was hit by fragments from a hostile bobby trap; and

18 WHEREAS, Specialist Vogler was survived by his wife, Gail  
19 Vogler; his father, Jess D. Vogler; his mother, Margorie M.  
20 Vogler; his daughter, Ann Vogler-Hos, (who was born 2 months  
21 after he was killed in action); his grandson, Travis Grostick;  
22 his brothers, Gaylord and Jackie; and his sister, Marlene  
23 Vogler; and

1           WHEREAS, For his service in the defense of the Republic of  
2 Vietnam, Specialist Vogler was awarded the following: the  
3 Bronze Star Medal; the Purple Heart Medal; the National Defense  
4 Service Medal; the Vietnam Service Medal; the Combat  
5 Infantryman Badge, 1st Award; the Republic of Vietnam Campaign  
6 Ribbon w/Device (1960); the Good Conduct Medal; and the  
7 Sharpshooters Badge with Rifle Bar; and

8           WHEREAS, From the Government of the Republic of Vietnam,  
9 Specialist Vogler was awarded: the Vietnam Campaign Medal; the  
10 Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Palm; and the Military  
11 Merit Medal; and

12           WHEREAS, Specialist Vogler died in the performance of his  
13 mission and his loss has been greatly mourned by both his  
14 American and Vietnamese comrades-in-arms; therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
17 Specialist Gale Kurk Vogler, and extend our sincere condolences  
18 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
19 it further

20           RESOLVED, That we honor Specialist Vogler for making the  
21 ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Specialist Vogler as an expression  
3 of our deepest sympathy and thanks.